



A fond goodbye to Kevin Tanzola of the Marriott

It was with more than a touch of sadness, but with a great deal of humor that Rick Zeolla, General Manager of the Marriot Resort along with his management staff bid farewell to Kevin Tanzola. During Kevin's two year stint as Director of Finance for all three entities of the resort complex, which includes the Marriott Aruba Resort and Stellaris Casino, the Ocean Club and the Surf Club, he saw the resort through some momentous changes, including the opening of the Surf Club, and made many friends.

Keeping in mind Kevin's position and devotion to cost control, his friends and fellow workers, which included the entire financial department, enjoyed playing on last practical joke on Kevin, by greeting him in the ballroom lobby with a party that appeared to be very spare, to say the least. When Kevin arrived for his farewell gig, he found only crackers and mixed nuts, plus a choice of Balashi Beer or bottled water being offered to the gathering. Rick Zeolla handed out ONE free drink ticket, but if anyone wanted more, they were informed it was a "cash bar." Kevin accepted this little charade with surprising aplomb, as it appealed to his nature as Director of Finance, ever trying to trim expenses. After a welcome by Rick Zeolla everyone moved into the ballroom for the *actual* goodbye party, somewhat to Kevin's disappointed, he joking confessed.

While well-wishers enjoyed a beautiful array of sushi and Mexican food from the Marriott's culinary team, a number of individuals stepped up to the microphone to wish Kevin goodbye and good luck in his new position as Director of International Asset Management CALA/AP, out of Marriott's corporate offices in Bethesda, Maryland. This promotion in the Marriott corporate ladder will make him responsible for many financial and owner related functions, such as workout arrangements, Owner Relations, and financial problem resolutions and as a member of the Casino Oversight Committee.

Not only did Kevin receive a warm farewell and testimony from managers of various for his diligence and humor, but also Bill Carson of the CMB Bank and representatives of various island business that worked with him during their dealing with the Marriott Resort. They appreciated Kevin as not only a colleague but also a friend, and he was showered with a number of gifts and words of appreciation, aside from being serenaded with the Whitney Houston hit, "I Will Always Love You" by Brian Stedford of the Stellaris Casino.

Rick Zeolla and his wife Mashell had a very personal goodbye for Kevin and his wife Christine, as they had formed a personal bond with the couple. As a former Director of Finance, Rick felt a kinship and understanding for the difficulties of the position, and an appreciation for what an exemplary job Kevin performed during tenure in Aruba. "As the numbers got bigger and bigger, the challenges got bigger and bigger but Kevin was always up to the task at hand," expressed Rick. "He always gave me excellent guidance from the finance perspective. The growth the Marriott has seen in the last two years would have been a difficult task for most Directors of Finance to handle, but Kevin made it seem effortless." From the testimony of his fellow managers, it would appear that his competence in his position made their work effortless, also. Kevin also had enormous appreciation for the team effort of his staff in the finance department, and acknowledged he could not have achieved what he did without their support. Though the Marriott has not appointed a replacement yet, Kevin expressed confidence in his team that they will do a fine job of taking care of the resort's bottom line.